#14: You have been terminated

by Owen Williams on 25 May 2018

Happy GDPR day!

I have a cracker from the inbox this morning: Unroll.me has blocked users in Europe using what appears to be a baic IP ban.

Unroll.me is a company that isn't exactly known for doing great things with your data, and it's very ready for GDPR: your accounts have been terminated! Bye!

There are so many things wrong with this, it's absurd:

While we do not actively market our service or conduct business in the EU, we find we have a small number of users like you, who reside in the EU and have discovered Unroll.Me, and will be affected by this change.

A small number? Not actively marketed? I've seen banner ads for Unroll.me in the Netherlands. Onward:

As a result, we have temporarily stopped providing service to EU and European Economic Area residents until further notice.

This doesn't absolve you of complying with GDPR.

Our service is completely secure everywhere

😂

unroll.me

GDPR

Dear Unroll.Me User:

This notice is to inform you that as of the 24th of May, we have suspended Unroll.Me services in Europe, and we have terminated your Unroll.Me account.

As you know, the EU is implementing new data privacy rules, known as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). While we fully support and are working diligently toward meeting all GDPR requirements, we have not completed this effort by the regulation's start date. As a result, we have temporarily stopped providing service to EU and European Economic Area residents until further notice.

While we do not actively market our service or conduct business in the EU, we find we have a small number of users like you, who reside in the EU and have discovered Unroll.Me, and will be affected by this change. Getting our service back up and running is a priority, and the team is committed to re-introducing our service as quickly as possible. Please stay tuned for the reintroduction of Unroll.Me in the EU.

Our service is completely secure everywhere--including in the EU, and our users' privacy is of paramount concern. Your personal data has always been secure with us.

If you have any questions or concerns about this topic, please reach out to us.

Find more information in our FAQ.

#13: What if we did nothing?

by Owen Williams on 25 May 2018

If you're tracking the hell out of people, and don't do anything before May 25, what's left to do? Well, for newspapers, basically just block everyone in a continent:

Orlando Sentinel

We are currently unavailable in your region but actively exploring solutions to make our content available to you again.

Chicago Tribune

We are currently unavailable in your region but actively exploring solutions to make our content available to you again.

Los Angeles Times

We are currently unavailable in your region but actively exploring solutions to make our content available to you again.

Thanks, @passantino!

#12: GDPR comes to your snail mail

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

Owen @ow13h
Replying to @mrcfield
whaa??

Chris Field
@mrcfield

Yep, from Parcel Force lol pic.twitter.com/bmTc4jID81
7:33 PM - May 24, 2018

4 See Chris Field's other Tweets

I genuinely don't understand how this happened, and how they printed a signup URL, before wondering if this was the right thing to do. Still, I've heard of a lot of snail-mail GDPR cases today, so if you have one too, send it over.

Thanks, Chris!

#11: Please manually email your consent

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

Hello, fellow human. Do you want to keep job hunting? Please manually email your consent to us is a new level of gathering consent. I wonder how they'll police this! I think this is my favorite to date.

Thursday, 24 May 2018
Ref: [Candidate Number]
Email: [Candidate Email]

Hi [Candidate Name],

On 25 May 2018 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR") will come into force in Europe and is a new regulation which replaces the Data Protection Regulation (Directive 95/46/EC).

This is great news for you as it'll allow you to have more control over how your personal information is used. Unfortunately it may also result in you missing future career or contract opportunities unless we have your explicit permission to allow us to contact you about some great roles in your target area.

You can read our GDPR Privacy Policy here https://www.abrecco.com/privacy-policy

To Opt-In and continue receiving information about new and exciting career opportunities simply reply to this email and paste "*yes please, keep me informed*" into the subject line.

You may also like to attach your latest CV.

Of course, if you change your mind at anytime please contact our support team at: support@abrecco.com to Opt-Out.

Sincerely,

The Abrecco Team
support@abrecco.com

Thanks for forwarding this, Hans!

#10: I sense a trend, here

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

"A newsletter worth opening." Errrr well, yeah, it's a newsletter asking me to sign up for a newsletter.

Subject: A newsletter worth opening

Emails, eh? We get it.

Nobody ever regrets spending too little time in their inbox. But just like we made file-transfers fun, we're doing the same for newsletters.

WeTransfer helps users get in, and stay in, their creative flow - that strange and beautiful state where everything comes together and great things happen.

Now imagine that, delivered straight to your inbox. Interesting news and stories to spark your creative ideas. And as always we're not going to mess around with your data, because, well, that's just creepy.

Sign up

The WeTransfer Team

#9: What if we use...guilt?

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

How to make a superfluous GDPR opt-in email both thirsty, and political.

Love, the UK's Labour Party.

Patrick, this weekend it's Jeremy Corbyn's birthday – and the last thing he wants as a gift is to see our movement lose strength!

But unless you let us know today, new data laws will mean we won't be able to keep in touch with you and thousands like you who power our movement.

So come on, don't ruin Jeremy's birthday – let us know that we can **keep sending you updates on the latest campaigns, events and opportunities to get involved – via Labour emails.**

YES, KEEP ME UPDATED

TELL ME MORE

You can manage your preferences or unsubscribe at any time. If you would like

to know more about how we use your information click here.

Imagine if last summer, when Theresa May called a snap general election, we hadn't been able to email you and fill you in on our powerful plan to take on the Tories.

It was because of thousands of people like you that we were able to deliver the biggest swing to Labour since 1945 – and when the next election comes, it'll be because of thousands of people like you that Labour will win.

Thanks for not ruining Jeremy's birthday (and more importantly – for staying a part of our amazing movement)!

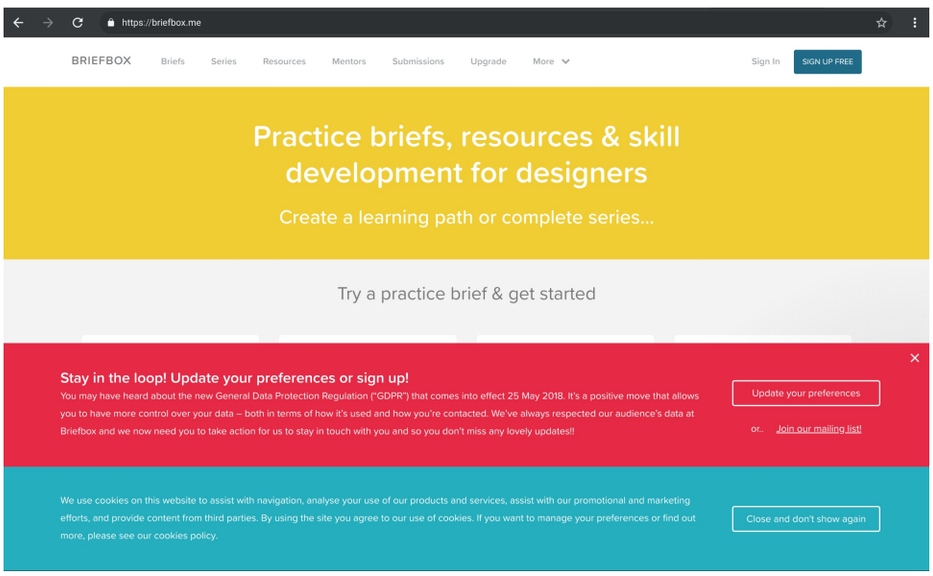
Team Labour

To manage your email preferences or unsubscribe from Labour Party emails please click here. We won't pass on your email address to anyone else: see our privacy policy. Reproduced from an email sent by the Labour Party, promoted by Jennie Formby on behalf of the Labour Party both at Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT.

#8: Double-Decker.

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

Hi, internet person! Would you like cookies? Also, can you agree to our privacy policy? Also, sign up for our newsletter!



Thanks, Zach.

#7: Sorry, your light-bulbs and GDPR don't work

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

From The Internet of Shit, Yeelight is supposedly blocking the majority of its features as it's "unable" to comply with GDPR but fails to explain why. The app apparently asks for consent to process data, then updates to warn the user that they are no longer able to use it.

Internet of Shit
@internetofshit

Hi!

Just letting you know you can't use your lights anymore because we're slathering your data around and GDPR is here.

good luck! bye!

11:53 AM - May 24, 2018

6,893 4,691 people are talking about this

On the bright side, you can control individual lights still, but groups no longer work either. In other words, a normal lightbulb would work better than these, with this update.

The bitter irony, of course, is a search for "Yeelight privacy" returns lots of worried forum posts from 2017, and this:

"It is extremely unlikely that yeelight would get your data from a light bulb, they only use wifi to turn on and of and nothing else. They are extremely safe to use over wifi but if you are worried about it I recommend you get the Bluetooth version named yeelight blue"

Thanks, @warmerdam_jesse, @wiyarmir and @rileyrichter.

#6: Razer breaks mice for users that don't accept a privacy policy

by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

GDPR, RAZER AND YOU

This is a reminder to update to the latest version of your software where relevant to avoid any potential disruptions to your Razer experience. You may be asked to review our new Terms and Conditions as you use our software and services. New versions of existing software will be made available, such as Razer Synapse 2.0 and 3.0. For Razer Phone owners, a new update has been made available with updated terms.

To keep pace with the new data protection laws taking effect from May 25, 2018 in the European Union, we have updated our terms of service and privacy policies. We encourage you to review the new changes to our policies by visiting our General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) page for more information: https://www.razer.com/gdpr

We appreciate your support and trust in Razer when using our products and services and seek your kind understanding as we continue to empower our users to make the best decisions about the information that is shared with us.

LEARN MORE

If you're having trouble viewing this, click here to view this email in your browser.

Best Regards,
The Razer Team

Wait wait wait wait wait wait wait wait.....what?

"Effective 25 May 2018, all versions of our software and services that do not meet the GDPR regulations will be retired and no longer be usable or valid. This means that you may not be able to log in to legacy versions of software and services such as Razer Synapse 2.0"

OK - so, what was Razer Synapse 2.0 doing that can't work under the new model? This is strange, and a little concerning? Your mouse software will stop functioning, without this update... as will the Razer phone.

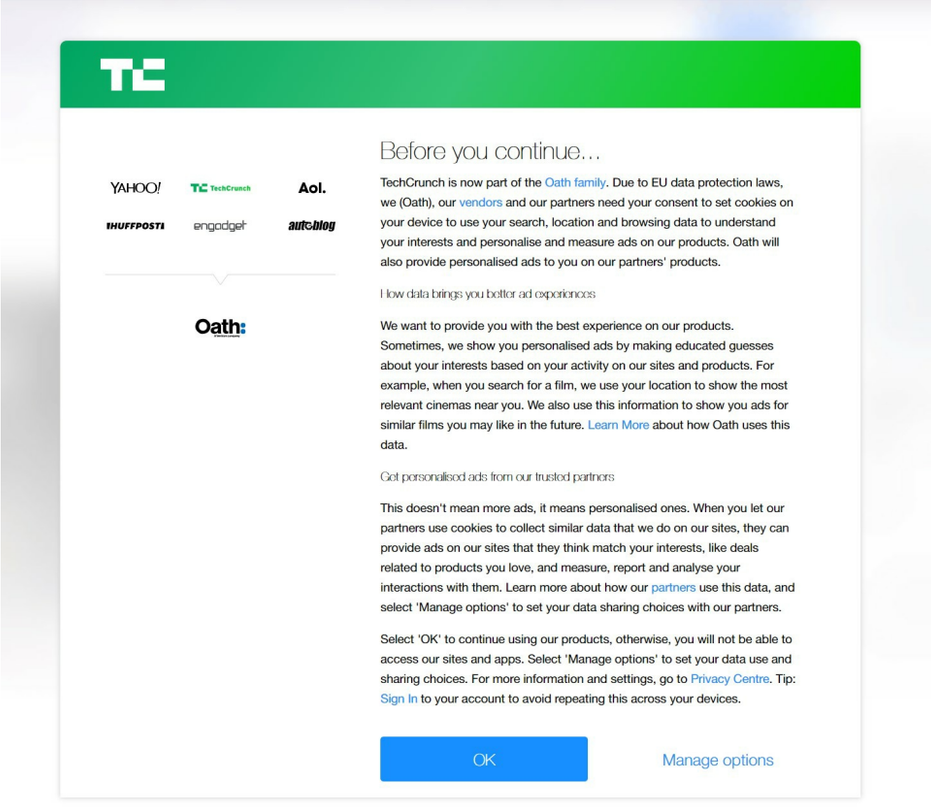
It's feasible this was related to Razer not naming the data sharing partners, but why not just fess up and say who they were?

#5: Techcrunch, Engadget and Oath cookies galore

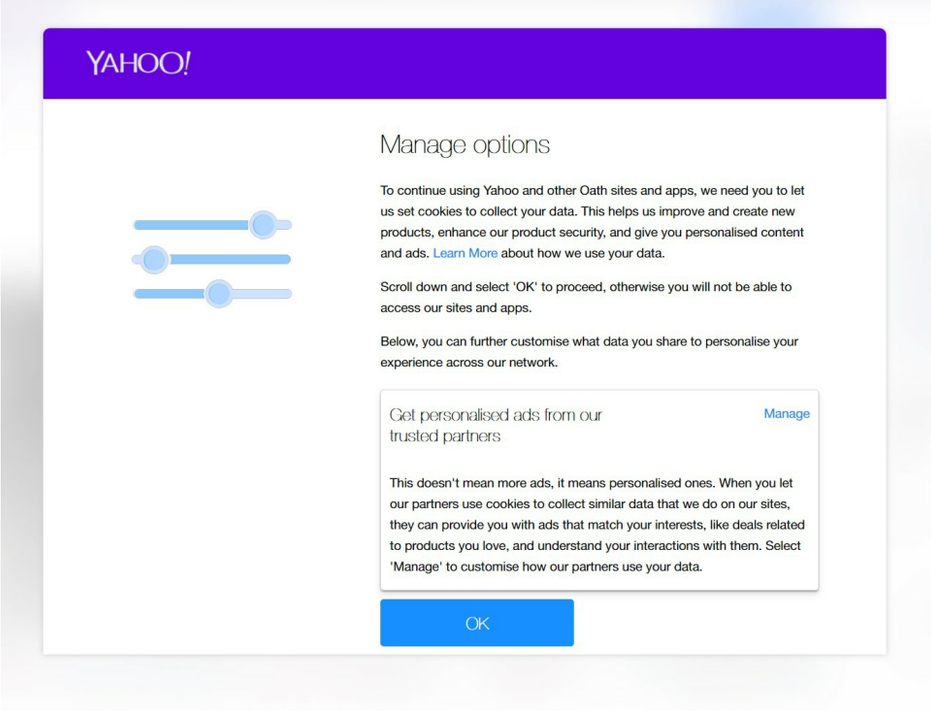
by Owen Williams on 24 May 2018

Oath, the parent company of Techcrunch, Engadget and many other technology sites has started rolling out its consent process for cookies. Warning: it's a doozie.

First, you'll get this lovely thing that makes it very easy to say yes:

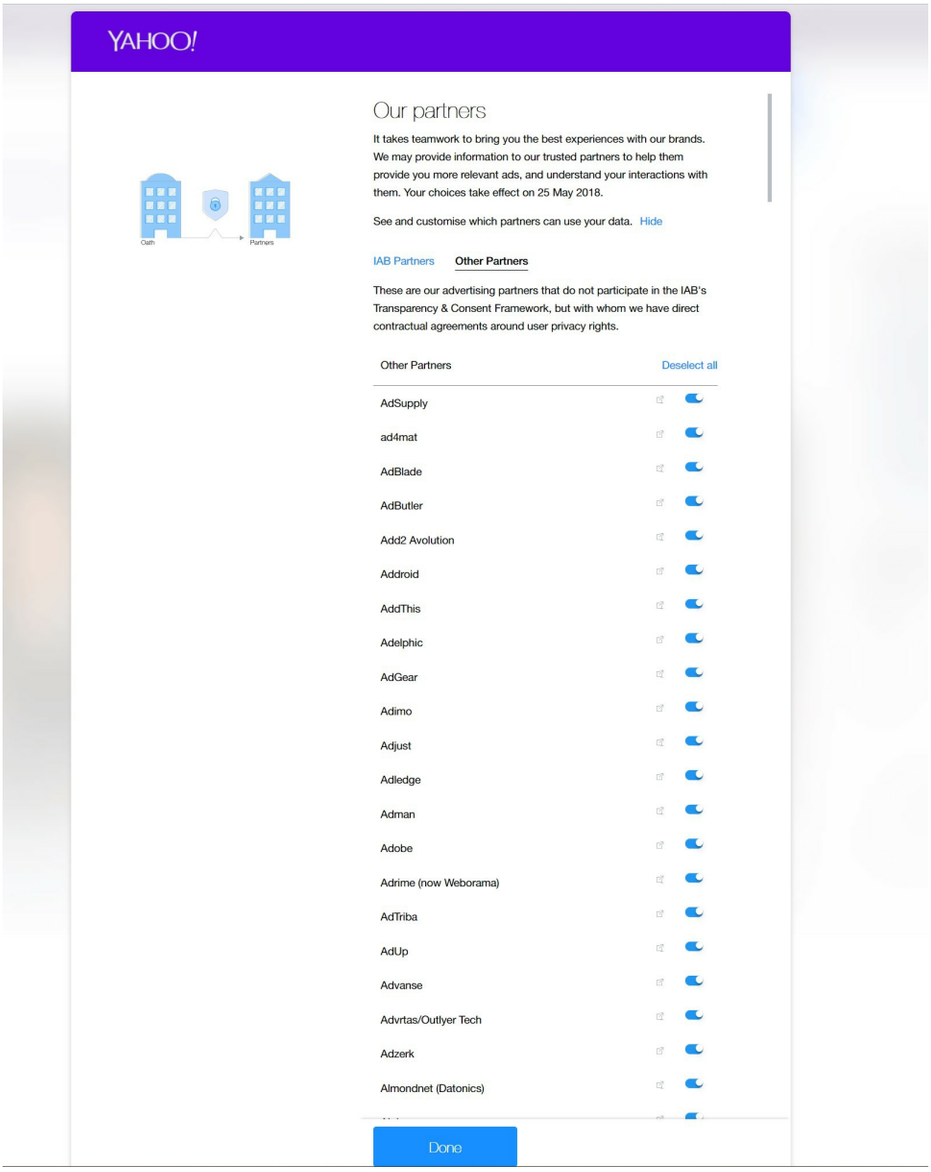


If you hit manage options you'll get some choices and more information about what's actually going on, and who they're sharing data with.

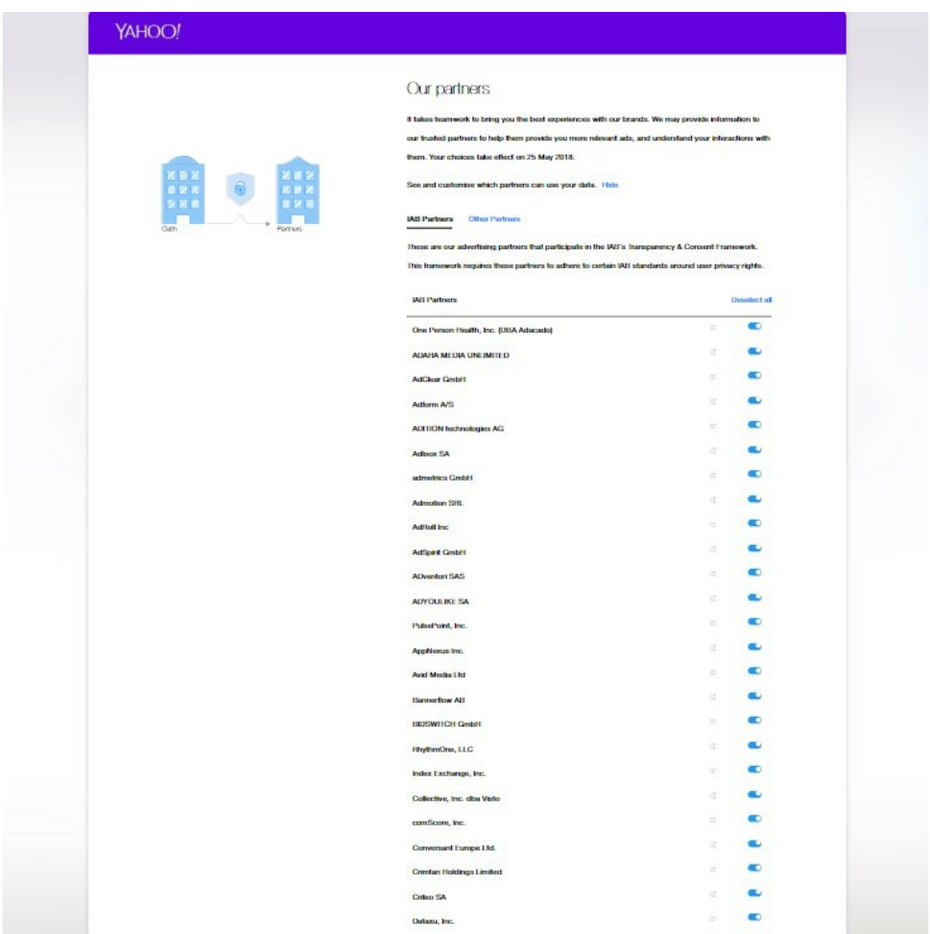


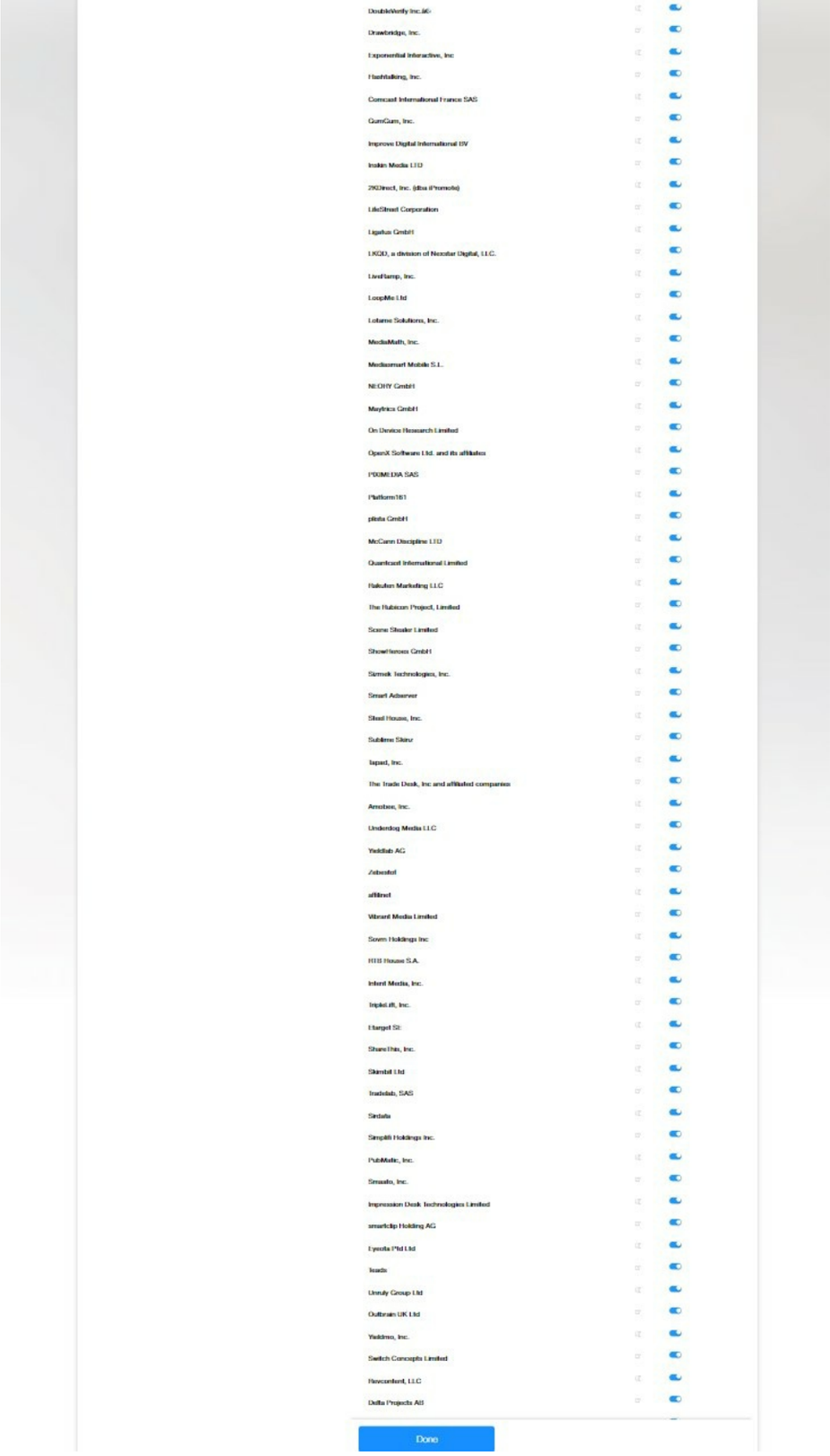
Cool. But... who are they? Clicking the small manage link shows you to a separate our partners page which looks interesting. There are two options: see and customize which partners use data, and see how they use it.

Hidden behind door number one? A few hundred data sharing partners, and a default opt-in! Whoops - this is most likely not compliant with GDPR and makes this a pointless excercise.

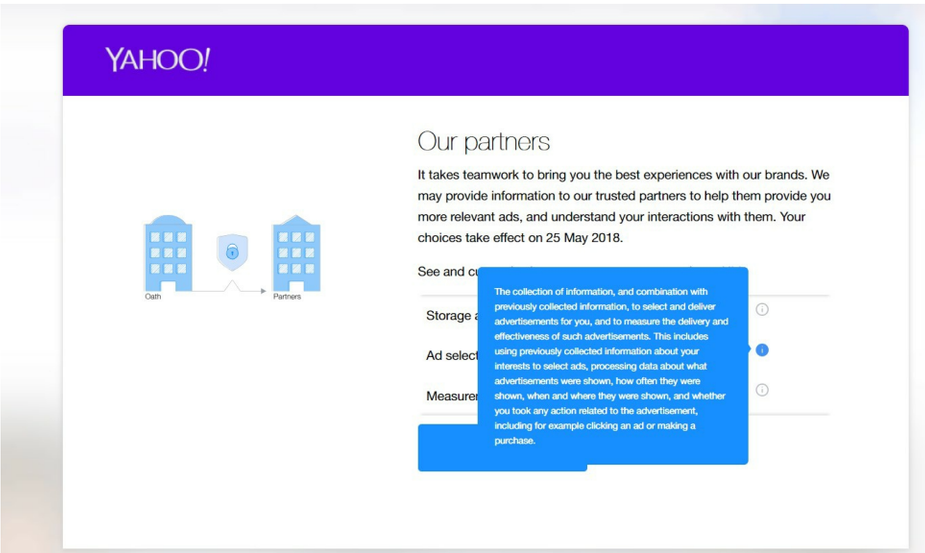


But wait, there's another option with even more buttons here under "Other partners" which is apparently something separate with, holy shit, more than 100 checkboxes.

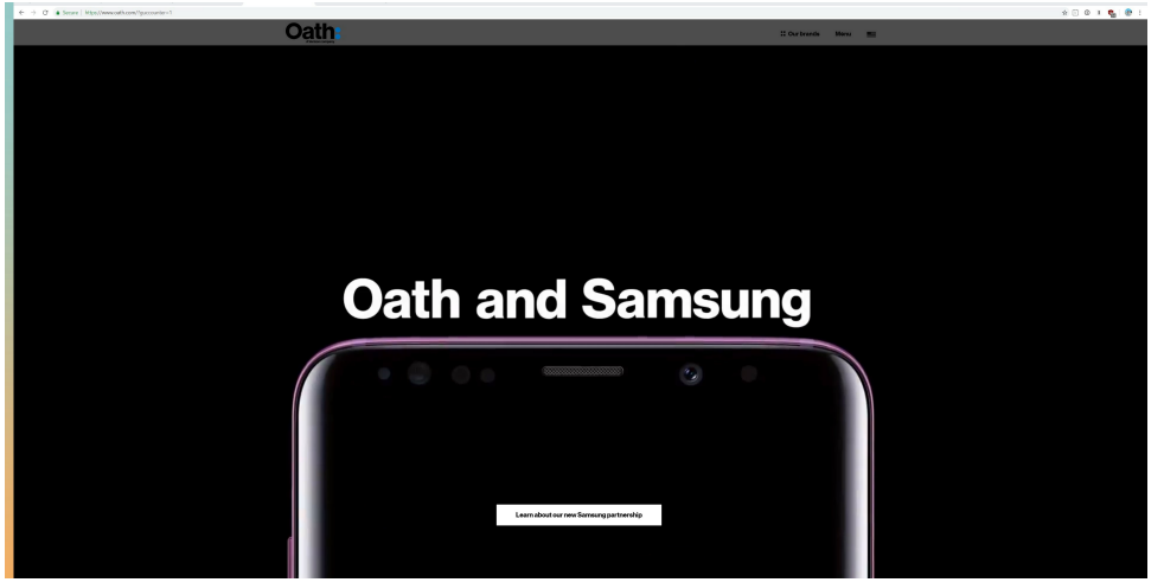




Door number two, now that I've disabled... all of these random companies, just describes what the data is processed for. OK then! You now have my consent to not share my data.



At the end of the process I was shown a full page ad, so just closed the tab. Cool.



Older Posts ←

About

This project was a crazy idea by @ow after getting so many crappy GDPR emails and shutdown notices and was sponsored spontaneously by the amazing Raygun.

Submit a GDPR horror story of your own on Twitter, or emailing gdpr@owened.co.nz.

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